

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 31, 2006 in the present application has been reviewed by undersigned. Claims 6 and 13-19 are pending in the application upon entry of the foregoing amendments. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. The foregoing amendments are believed to deal with all of the objections raised in the Office Action.

The invention provides an advance to the material handling pallet art. As described in the specification, the pallets of the present invention are versatile and adjustable and thus adaptable to handling of cartons or other objects of varying dimensions. The pallets are readily manufactured using rot and mold resistant durable materials such as plastics and thus provide improved life cycles under hostile environments often encountered in the handling of various materials.

The foregoing amendments are believed to overcome the objections to claim 13 (and thus also the claims depending therefrom). Claims 6 and 13-19 are, thus, all believed to be in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claim 17, the Examiner's observations have been noted and the claim has been further amended to clarify the fact that it is the distance between the upper carton or other object engaging surface and the extremities of the supporting legs that remain constant when a selected pair of the pallet sections are nested in inverted orientation with the legs thereof facing each other and protruding into the openings provided in the opposing section. It is conceded that, as pointed out by the Examiner, the retaining edges of the assembly would somewhat increase the overall dimensions of the inverted assembly of the pallet sections due to the fact that there are two of the retaining edges. However, it is applicants' contention that the distance between cartons, as spaced apart by an inverted pair of the pallet sections, is the same as the distance above a floor surface that a single pallet supports a carton or other article. The claim amendments now carefully define this distinction over the prior art.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 10/710,917
Page 6 of 7

As previously noted, Applicants believe that all of the objections set forth in the Office Action have been dealt with and are overcome by the foregoing amendments. Accordingly, Applicants now believe that all of the remaining claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants thus respectfully request entry of the amendments and passage of the application to issue.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicants submit that the pallets of the present invention are cost-effective, versatile and novel. Allowance of the application is thus earnestly solicited.

In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 11, 2007

Lori A. Rosier

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 10/710,917
Page 7 of 7